

minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 50th day of the Republican contract for America. They like to boast and they punchout with a hole puncher each contract item. Let us look at what they have punched out so far.

They have punched out police on the beat, the 100,000 police officers that this Congress provided last year. They punched out open rules by closing them to honest debate.

They have punched out taxpayers with \$40 billion for a new star wars.

Who gets punched out in the next 50 days? Well, they are going to punch out tax cuts for the wealthy. That will really help a lot. They are going to punch out senior citizens by the cuts that have to come under the balanced budget amendment. They are going to punch out veterans. They are going to punch out middle income families when they restrict student loans.

They are going to punch out kids—that is gutsy—with student nutrition cutbacks, with cutbacks on hot lunches and breakfasts.

Mr. Speaker, one would think that George Foreman had run for the Congress. But the fact is that we should not be here punching people out. Each punchout they do is a knockout to the American economy.

RECOUNTING THE SUCCESSES AT THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE CONTRACT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my friend talking about punching out certain interests in this country, I am struck by the fact that he fails to recognize the tremendous success of the first 50 of the 100 days.

We have had the most open debate process that this institution has witnessed in years. With the crime bill that we passed, we are going to allow local governments to make the determination as to how they can best deal with the crime problem, and if they want to put 100,000 police officers on the street, I am convinced that if that number is actually right, which I certainly question, this measure that we passed will be able to do that.

The fact is that we have had tremendous success during these first 50 days of the 100 days, and as we mark George Washington's birthday, it is pathetic, absolutely pathetic, that one of our colleagues has to do what the Democrats have unfortunately resorted to

Mr. Speaker, that is pathetic. It is absolutely pathetic that all they are doing is resorting to digging up dirt.

DEMOCRATS BEING GAGGED BY REPUBLICANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yes, this is the 50th day. But we got a long way to go. You know, this Congress will be in session for about another year and 10 months, so let us see what happens in that year and 10 months.

What has happened in the first 50 days is not very much. When you add it up, there has only been one bill that has been passed and become law, and that same bill is a bill that we as Democrats passed last year and everybody agreed to, and that is the compliance bill.

Nothing else has become law. The balanced budget amendment? That is still sitting over in the Senate. They are going to vote on it next week. They do not even know if they are going to pass it or not. Nothing else is moving. Nothing else has become law.

Folks, they say that great things are happening. Well, what have been the great things happening? We have been gagged. Many of us have amendments to bills. We cannot offer them. They will not let us offer them. They have a timetable. They say, "We have to do it now, right now; you cannot offer your amendment. It is going to happen today."

I wish more people would watch what happens here today and see how Democratic minority Members are gagged by the rules of the majority today, tomorrow, Friday, all next week, and all through this 50 days.

IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER LAST 50 DAYS

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today we properly focus upon how much we have accomplished in just 50 days. The list is impressive: A balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, a tough and commonsense crime bill, unfunded Federal mandates reform, and setting priorities for America's foreign policy and national defense.

Now, Americans may ask how will this affect me? Let me answer. A balanced budget amendment means your children and grandchildren will have a

eral mandate reform means you will no longer have to pay the hidden taxes from the Federal Government passing down mandates to State and local governments. Setting national security priorities ensures that America will maintain its strong leadership in the world in future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we are making real changes, changes that will help the American people, and we will continue.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA A CAMPAIGN GIMMICK

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I came here to serve the families of the people of Austin, TX, not to serve as a contractor for NEWT GINGRICH. This contract is nothing more than a campaign gimmick, and if it is fully imposed, it will be the people of Austin, TX, and across this country who suffer.

The contract rejects community policing and crime prevention programs that work in Texas. It would turn over our health and safety standards to the tobacco companies and the other special interests. And the cost of this contract? At more than \$1 trillion, it threatens our financial security.

Some of the concepts in the contract are good, but I learned long before going to law school from my parents that you do not listen to the salesperson's hype, you read the fine print, the little bitty words on the back of the contract. And when you do that, you find out that this so-called Contract With America is devastating to middle-class families across this country.

This contract goes too far, too fast, too extreme. It can and should be rejected.

PROMISES MADE ARE PROMISES KEPT

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the midway point in the Contract With America. Only 50 days into this historical 104th Congress, Republicans have said no to business as usual in Washington. We have already passed a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, and have brought Congress under the same laws as the rest of the

by keeping our word and our promises to the American people. In this Congress, promises made are promises kept.

FEDERAL RESERVE INTEREST RATE POLICY THREATENING AMERICA

(Mr. MASCARA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, why is it that every time the economy begins to improve in the eyes of the Federal Reserve that is bad? Is bad news good news? That is a true fiscal oxymoron.

I will never understand the Federal Reserve. I will never understand why every time the economy is growing and jobs are being created, Alan Greenspan and his colleagues decide to slam the brakes on by raising interest rates.

The recent boost in interest rates by the feds is the seventh increase in the past year. Short-term interest rates have doubled from 3 to 6 percent. Long-term rates are expected to hit 9 percent, a level we have not seen since the early 1990's.

These hikes are beginning to put a stranglehold on the people of the country and the 20th Congressional District in Pennsylvania. Economists are predicting an economic slowdown, but the Federal Reserve is still not satisfied. Unbelievably, Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues feel that unemployment remains too low.

Good news is bad news? Bad news is good news? I frankly do not get it. Mr. Greenspan, stop hurting the recovery that is under way.

IMPROVING THE HOUSE SCHEDULE

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we began the 104th Congress with a commitment to improve the House schedule to make this Congress more family friendly, recognizing that the first 100 days of this session would be devoted to fulfilling the legislation promised in the Contract With America entailing long days and a full House schedule during this time.

We have worked hard to keep on that contract schedule and trying to balance the floor schedule with time for family has been difficult. But I believe there are a few ways we can adjust the House floor routine in an effort to improve upon the family friendliness of this Congress.

least provide the floor staff with some help when the schedule goes into the late hours so that the staff can spend some time with their families.

Mr. Speaker, schedules, nerves, and tempers are beginning to fray. An earlier starting time could not only help in moving the House's business along, but it could also allow some additional family time, and truly make this a family friendly Congress.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM NECESSARY FOR AMERICA

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican attempt to dismantle the Nation's School Lunch Program. I think it is a shame and a disgrace for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to choose to tamper with something as basic as a school lunch.

Currently, 57 percent of all students participate in this most needed program. We cannot abort our responsibility as national law makers and put tens of thousands of young innocent school children at the risk of not having the opportunity to have a balanced meal during the course of a school day, many of which depend on this meal as their only source of nutrition for the entire day.

I believe that this Congress has a direct interest in the health and welfare of the Nation's children; making sure that each child attending school receives a well-balanced meal each school day.

This is a responsibility and an obligation that one Member of this Congress is not willing to give up, and I hope my colleagues agree.

SAVE THE NADEP

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the Defense Department prepares the latest list of military sites it will recommend for shutdown, there is one site that any objective observer would conclude does not belong on that list—the Jacksonville Naval Aviation Depot.

Since the 1993 round of base closings cut the Nation's number of naval aviation depots in half, the Jacksonville NADEP's unique role as a cornerstone of America's military readiness has only increased. The core purpose of a

Jackie Pershing Center. No other NADEP is so efficient that in 1994 it actually turned a profit of \$27 million.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want the strongest possible national defense at the lowest possible cost. If the Defense Department wants to achieve this goal, the Jacksonville NADEP is the last base it would ever want to close.

SUPPORT URGED FOR KOREA/VIETNAM MEMORIAL NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

(Mr. MCHALE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my wholehearted support for the Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center, now being created in my district of Pennsylvania.

President John F. Kennedy once said that "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers". For too long, some among us have chosen to forget about the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam; to push aside the sacrifices made on our behalf by those who served in the uniform of our country. We asked much of them, and gave little in return.

We must now remember these events, and pay honor to those who made the sacrifices which democracy often put on those whom Lincoln called the "common people"—men and women of ordinary means, but also of extraordinary courage and uncommon valor.

The Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center, will serve as a living tribute to the men and women who answered the call of their country, and as a lesson for those to whom we will entrust our hard-fought peace.

I ask that the members of this body join me in supporting this important memorial to our veterans, and to brave patriots from freedom-loving countries throughout the world, who deserve no less than this tribute. The Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center is our chance to let them know that they matter, and that we care.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA NOT HELPING AMERICANS

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)